

## **REMARKS**

Claims 1-10 are now pending in the application. The amendments to the claims contained herein are of equivalent scope as originally filed and, thus, are not a narrowing amendment. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

## **DRAWINGS**

The drawings stand objected to for certain informalities. Applicant has attached revised drawings for the Examiner's approval. In the "Replacement Sheets" Figures 4-7 have been designated as prior art as the Examiner has suggested. In view of the modifications to the drawings, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

## **REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102**

Claims 1-4, 6 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Braun (U.S. Pat. No. 4,619,349, hereinafter "Braun"). Claims 1-3, 5 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kondo et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 4,700,817, hereinafter "Kondo"). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

At the outset, Applicant notes that Claim 1 has been amended to clarify the claimed invention. Claim 1 now includes "a central stud member attached to the first longitudinally-extending member at a first end, said longitudinally-extending member attached to a third member at a second end." The Examiner has cited Braun and Kondo, which each comprise a central stud and a longitudinally extending member. The amendment to claim 1 now distinguishes the present invention from both Braun and Kondo. In Braun and Kondo, the longitudinally extending member appears to be

attached at only one end. The present invention now specifies that the longitudinally extending member is fixed at both ends. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the claim as amended properly distinguishes from both Braun and Kondo.

Claims 2-6 and 10 depend from claim 1. In view of the above comments and the amendments to the independent claim, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-6 and 10 as amended.

### **REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103**

Claims 1-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hans (U.S. Pat. No. 2,797,931, hereinafter "Hans") in view of Eckel et al. (EP 972,966, hereinafter "Eckel"). Claims 1-10 also stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hans in view of Kohlmeier et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,253,919, hereinafter "Kohlmeier"). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicant notes that claim 1 has been further amended to include "said pair of elastomeric beam structures having a softer characteristic in a direction generally transverse to an axial direction than in an axial direction." The present invention allows for a softer characteristic in a vertical direction rather than an axial direction. Kohlmeier provides a damper that is stiffer in a vertical direction than in an axial direction, contrary to the teachings of the present invention. Eckel does not appear to imply a greater stiffness in any direction, as the purpose of this invention is to counteract vibrations in a rotating shaft.

Applicant notes that claims 2-10 depend from independent claim 1 and as such, should be in condition for allowance for the reasons set forth above.

In view of the above remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

**CONCLUSION**

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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### **AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS**

The attached "Replacement Sheets" of drawings include changes to Figures 4-7. The attached "Replacement Sheets," which include Figures 4-7, replace the original sheets including Figures 4-7.